

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Allison Tulino on May 10, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title

The title has been changed to PNEUMATIC TIRE WITH SPECIFIED TOE RUBBER.

In the claims

non-elected species claim 4 has been cancelled (claim 1 no longer generic to claim 4);
claim 6 has been rewritten to depend from claim 1 in order to distinguish over the prior art
(see the reasons for allowance below) as --

6. (currently amended) ~~A pneumatic tire provided at its bead portion with a rubber chafer and covered at its inner surface with an innerliner, characterized in that a toe rubber is further arranged on a toe end part of the bead portion so as to overlap with the rubber chafer and the innerliner and located at least outside the innerliner at the overlapped portion with the innerliner, and a rubber composition A containing at least one of butyl rubber and halogenated butyl rubber as 20-40 mass% of a rubber component is used in the toe rubber, A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a rubber composition B containing at least one of butyl rubber and halogenated butyl rubber as at least 80 mass% of a rubber component is used in the innerliner, and a rubber~~

composition C containing at least one of butyl rubber and halogenated butyl rubber as at most 10 mass% of a rubber component is used in the rubber chafer.

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Tanaka et al. (4,508,153) discloses a pneumatic tire similar to the claimed tire including halogenated butyl rubber innerliner 5, rubber chafer 6b with no butyl rubber or halogenated butyl rubber, and toe rubber 6a but does not have the radially inner end of the innerliner turned back outward from the toe end in a widthwise direction of the tire and does not have the toe rubber composition containing 20-40 mass% butyl rubber and/or halogenated butyl rubber (Figure 2 arrangement I (toe rubber outside innerliner), col. 4 line 15 - col. 7 line 27); Japanese Patent Application 7-81335 A discloses a pneumatic tire similar to that of Tanaka et al.; German Patent Application 101 39 208 A1 discloses a pneumatic tire similar to the claimed tire including innerliner 10, rubber chafer 7x, and toe rubber 7y but does not have the innerliner turned back outward from the toe end in a widthwise direction of the tire (toe end formed only by toe rubber rather than innerliner touching toe end as in applicants' Figure 2) and does not have the toe rubber composition containing 20-40 mass% butyl rubber and/or halogenated butyl rubber (abstract, Figures 1 and 2, translation); Japanese Patent Application 2004-66980 A discloses a pneumatic tire similar to that of DE '208; EP '905 already of record teaches to provide air-impermeable toeguard rubber including 20-60 parts butyl rubber and/or halogenated butyl rubber per 100 parts rubber (phr) for enhanced resistance to air permeation (p. 2 line 1 - p. 3 line 33) and to use butyl rubber and/or halogenated butyl rubber as innerliner rubber to maximize air impermeability (p. 2 lines 7-36) but does not disclose having the radially inner end of the innerliner turned back outward from the toe end in a widthwise direction of the tire. The prior art of record

thus fails to disclose or suggest applicants' pneumatic tire, including the particular combination of the toe rubber composition and the innerliner, toe rubber, and rubber chafer arrangement including the innerliner being turned back outward from the toe end in a widthwise direction of the tire, in the claimed environment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adrienne C. Johnstone whose telephone number is (571) 272-1218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 1:00PM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
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Adrienne Johnstone

/Adrienne C. Johnstone/

May 10, 2010